



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **ICC Hosts Policy Session on Resource Adequacy in the Ameren Illinois Footprint**

On Thursday, November 19, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) hosted a “Planning for the Future” Policy Session on Resource Adequacy in the Ameren Illinois Footprint.

Organized by Commissioner Sherina Maye Edwards, the Session brought together subject-matter experts, consumer advocates, utility representatives, regional transmission organizations (RTOs), and Illinois-based generators.

Commissioner Edwards designed the Session as a means to provide a forum for stakeholders to identify and discuss potential Resource Adequacy issues in the Ameren Illinois footprint, which is part of Zone 4 of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) RTO market construct.

“Resource adequacy is a concept which focuses on ensuring enough energy capacity is available to meet the needs of all consumers in a particular area in order to keep the lights on,” said Commissioner Edwards. “While most other states in the MISO region are vertically integrated, meaning the utility owns all levels of the supply chain, Illinois is a restructured state whereby competing sellers supply electricity in an open market. This can make price signals and long-term planning processes less predictable, which affects consumers and businesses in the market itself.”

Commissioner Edwards added, “As a quasi-judicial regulatory body, the ICC does not intend to, and has not taken a position on this topic. Our only interest is in ensuring Illinois consumers receive safe, reliable and least-cost electric utility service. Today’s discussion was an important first step in ensuring stakeholders properly plan for the future.”

Joining the ICC for the Resource Adequacy discussion were Todd Ramey, Vice President, System Operations & Market Services, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO); Jim Blessing, Senior Director, Power Supply & Infrastructure Development, Ameren Illinois; Dean Ellis, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Dynegy; Bill Berg, Eastern RTO Director, Exelon; Susan Satter, Public Utilities Counsel, Illinois Attorney General’s Office; Anthony Star, Director, Illinois Power Agency; and Jim Dauphinais, Managing Principal, Brubaker & Associates, Inc. representing Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers.

Panelists tackled questions regarding the long term balance of adequate energy availability and capacity with a consensus that the topic draws a potential concern.

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Importantly, panelists stressed that the potential issues and solutions discussed were unique to Zone 4, and while each stakeholder's needs created competing interests, helping and protecting consumers was at the heart of the dialogue.

"Due to diminished supply in MISO Zone 4 and the narrow timing of the MISO Planning Resource Auction, the question remains whether MISO's market construct is appropriately designed to reliably meet the demand in Illinois," said ICC Chairman Brien Sheahan. "Today's discussion successfully explored this possible issue and the benefits of ensuring long-term Resource Adequacy in the Ameren Illinois footprint. The ability of MISO to ensure capacity during peak times at just and reasonable rates is critical and I appreciated hearing the perspectives of the impacted parties."

The ICC will continue the dialogue on December 10, 2015 in Part 2 of the Policy Session to discuss solutions to Resource Adequacy in MISO Zone 4. The Session will commence with brief presentations on the current state of Resource Adequacy in Zone 4, and will be followed by a solutions panel and a constituent panel.

The discussion will include representatives from MISO and utilities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, and will take place in the Main Hearing Room at the ICC's Chicago Office located at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite C-800. A video feed will be available to watch at the ICC's Springfield Office, 527 East Capitol, and the audio feed will be online on the ICC's Website ([www.icc.illinois.gov](http://www.icc.illinois.gov)).

Presentations from the Thursday Session can be found by clicking [here](#). A complete transcript will be made available on the ICC Website in the near future.

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### ***About the Illinois Commerce Commission***

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: The Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.